

conflicting as to whether consanguinity plays any part in the development of the disease. "Syphilis plays a very doubtful part, if any, in the causation of retinitis pigmentosa." There is a discussion on the relation of deaf-mutism and idiocy and of cirrhosis of the liver to retinitis pigmentosa. Details of the authors' cases are given, as well as the results of analysis of the blood and urine. The conclusion is that the disease is a degeneration of the entire neuro-vascular track of the peripheral end organ of vision, extending backwards to the brain, but not an inflammation within the eyeball, the primary structure involved being the choroid, while the retinal changes are secondary. The disease is always congenital, however late it is before it manifests itself, while heredity is an important etiological factor. Consanguinity is of importance only in connexion with heredity and environment. Retinitis pigmentosa without pigmentation is a disease identical with retinitis pigmentosa, while unilateral retinitis pigmentosa is inconsistent with the authors' idea of the nature of the disease. The book is well got up, and sums up our present knowledge of the disease.

The large and most complete book by CASEY A. WOOD of Chicago, *A System of Ophthalmic Therapeutics*,¹⁰ does not consist simply of a description of drugs used for diseases which have a direct or remote effect upon the eye; a very careful description is given of these diseases, and the treatment indicated in each; there is, for instance, a really good description of various diseases of the stomach, liver, brain, etc., which involve the ocular apparatus. The non-surgical treatment of the diseases of the nose and neighbouring cavities which affect the ocular apparatus is next considered, and a chapter is then devoted to general anaesthetics in ophthalmic operations. A very full account is given of the methods of testing the sight of railroad employees and seamen in America, and the information it contains is useful and interesting to those who are engaged in similar work in other countries. A large portion of the book is given up to the discussion of remedial agents employed in eye diseases. The volume is not entirely the work of Dr. Casey Wood, for although he has written the greater part of it, and is responsible for the whole, yet many of the chapters are by other well-known American physicians and surgeons, who deal with branches of the subject which they have made peculiarly their own. Thus there is a particularly interesting section devoted to the history of ocular therapeutics by Dr. Alfred Murray of Chicago. The final chapter deals with the preparation of the patient for ophthalmic operations. A very full index completes the work. The volume is of prodigious size, but the author takes a wide view, and it may well be termed "a system," as it deals with every imaginable form of treatment except operative, that can be used upon the eye. It treats of diseases which can only very remotely be considered to bear any relation to the eye at all. It is complete and eminently practical, and will add to the reputation of Dr. Casey Wood, who is well known for his energy and high technical knowledge.

Bacteriology is still a subject which savours rather of the unknown with many people. This is due, of course, to the comparatively short time since it obtained a well established place in the medical curriculum, but as all students are now grounded, more or less thoroughly, in its principles, it is coming to be more familiar. It has solved many of the mysterious problems of disease, and in ophthalmology has done much to elucidate many vexed questions. We therefore welcome an English translation of Dr. THEODOR AXENFELD's excellent book, which Dr. Angus Macnab presents with the title *The Bacteriology of the Eye*.¹¹ It is an elaborate work, beautifully got up and illustrated. The first chapter, which discusses technique, is very practical, and free from an excess of detail. The chapters on the bacteriology of the conjunctiva and cornea occupy the greater part of the rest of the book; leprosy, tuberculosis and syphilis of the eye, endogenous infections and the bacteriology of the orbit being treated in three concluding chapters. The book is wonderfully complete.

¹⁰ *A System of Ophthalmic Therapeutics*. Edited and chiefly written by Casey A. Wood, M.D., C.M., D.C.L. Chicago. Chicago: Cleveland Press. 1909. (Roy. 8vo, 926 pages, illustrated and completely indexed.)

¹¹ *The Bacteriology of the Eye*. By Dr. Theodor Axenfeld, Professor of Ophthalmology in the University of Freiburg. Translated by Angus Macnab, B.A., M.B., F.R.C.S. London: Baillière, Tindall and Cox. 1909. Large 8vo, pp. 425 illus. 16s. 21s.)

Professor Axenfeld is a recognized authority on ocular bacteriology, he and Morax having done more in this line of research than any other scientists. The translator has done his work well, and we heartily commend the book to the attention of all workers in ophthalmic science, none of whom can afford to be without it.

NOTES ON BOOKS.

THE description of Dr. C. P. EMERSON'S book on the *Essentials of Medicine*,¹² as a textbook of medicine for students beginning a medical course, for nurses and for all others interested in the care of the sick, is sufficient evidence of its elementary, not to say popular, character. It is clearly and brightly written; generally accurate in its statements, and simple to the point of colloquialism. If for medical students, its place should surely be at the very earliest possible period in their medical course; if for nurses, it should prove really useful during their theoretical training; and if for a member of the general public, it should chiefly serve and act well in making clear how important it is to have expert medical advice in practically every case of illness. As the author puts it, the book will aid him to understand more clearly the medical problems of the day, to appreciate more highly a well-trained practitioner, and to co-operate better with his doctor. From the point of view of the profession, its great virtue is a series of 116 diagrams illustrating in an admirably graphic manner important points in clinical medicine.

The first part of Dr. VIKTOR BLUM'S book on the symptomatology and diagnosis of urogenital diseases was noticed in the JOURNAL in May, 1908. The second of the three parts of which the whole work is to consist has lately appeared, and deals with the symptoms of functional affections of the male sexual organs.¹³ Besides impotence and sterility, it includes also sections on priapism, sexual neurasthenia, and some other matters. The second part, like the first, is carefully written, and contains a good deal of useful and practical information on the subjects dealt with; but, as the question of treatment is not considered, it is, of course, incomplete, and as there are no headlines to the pages and no index it is not easy to find one's way about in it.

The fact that Professor GEORG KLEMPERER'S small book on the elements of clinical diagnosis¹⁴ has reached its fifteenth edition, and that it has been translated into no less than six languages, is sufficient proof of its popularity; but it has other claims on the reader, which are not found in every book of the kind. Although the matter is elementary in so far as only guiding lines to diagnosis are described, the mass of information, which must prove useful both to student and practitioner, is very large indeed and clearly worded. Each diagnostic fact is recorded in a short, simple sentence, and each symptom-complex is described by means of a group of such sentences. Here and there a few omissions are to be noted, and less frequently doctrines, which are not universally held, are put forward as fact. The book, however, is composed of material which can be given to any student, and we would wish to extend its sphere of utility by recommending it to practitioners who are afraid of deteriorating in diagnosis and who have not enough spare-time to study larger books.

¹² *Essentials of Medicine*. By C. P. Emerson, M.D. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Company. 1908. (Demy 8vo, pp. 383 8s. 6d.)

¹³ *Symptomatologie und Diagnostik der Uro-genitalen Erkrankungen*. Von Dr. Viktor Blum. Zweiter Teil. Leipzig und Wien: Franz Deuticke. 1909. (Roy. 8vo, pp. 180. M. 5.)

¹⁴ *Gundriss der klinischen Diagnostik*. By Professor Dr. Georg Klemperer. Fifteenth edition. Berlin: A. Hirschwald. 1909. (Post 8vo, pp. 300, 2 plates, and 53 illustrations. M. 4.)

THE fourth series of lectures on scientific microscopy at the Institute for Microscopy of the Jena University, will be held from October 11th to October 16th. In addition to the lectures, practical demonstrations will be given on the Abbé refraction apparatus test plate and apertometer, and on photomicrography with ultra-violet light, with monochromatic visible light and with incident light (for metallography), and on ultramicroscopy of firm colloids of colloidal solutions and of the cells and fibres. Further particulars can be obtained from Dr. Ehlers, Beethovenstrasse 14, Jena. The first of these courses was held in Jena in 1907, the second in Vienna in 1908, and the third in Berlin in March last. The fifth course will be given at Leipzig in March, 1910.